

Letter from a Virginian in Texas.

GRAM, TEXAS, January 8, 1878.

Editors Dispatch: This letter is from the northwestern portion of the "Lone Star," and but a day's ride from the cordon of United States military power. The great and death of interest in her welfare induce me to write a note to your valuable journal, and ask that a copy be sent me to this address.

Graham is situated in Young county 100 miles west of Fort Worth, on the United States military-telegraph line, and the proposed seat of one branch of the Federal Court for the Western District of Texas. The county was organized but two years ago, and was a little time previous subject to Indian raids. Now, however, it is as quiet as any community in the State. The laws are rigidly executed to the letter, and material property everywhere exists. I came here from Virginia in 1874, was young and inexperienced, and consequently passed through the usual hard ordeal of "a stranger in a strange land." Now that I have become acquainted with the manners of the people and familiar with the land and climate I have no regret that I came West. Nevertheless, beginning life in Texas as a young man who enters upon the struggle for a new country, I feel that I will be compelled to battle earnestly for any advantage he may gain.

This place is in the same latitude as El Paso, the scene of the late encounter, but is about 400 miles distant—nothing between but wide, uninhabited prairie. The great distances there do not seem to trouble people. They are frontiersmen and "used to war's alarms." However, if any unpleasantness should occur between the United States and Mexico, Texas alone would be willing to answer for the success of an invasion.

We expect (or rather hope) the Pacific railroad bill will pass this session. Graham is near the proposed route, and the adjoining country would greatly rejoice to see the iron-horse coursing towards the Pacific coast.

I don't know whether Virginians emigrate now or not. It has been so long since I saw one fresh from the East. This is a fine country—the garden-spot. I think, of the State—yet I would not advise any one to come here if he can do well at home, although Texas is now adopted State. I will not leave the Virginians assisting her to advance to her full measure of power and pride, and not seduce from her allegiance one single element of strength.

Before closing I would say, sorrowfully, that the news of Governor's death reached us by telegraph. There are those here who both knew and admired him, and deeply regret this great and premature loss. Truly, ENIGMA.

Letter from a Virginian in Africa.

CAPE TOWN, AFRICA, December 11, 1876.

Editors Dispatch: I hope that a few words from a Richmond man, from this country, will not prove unacceptable to your readers, therefore I will describe the situation, size, &c., of the city, with the inhabitants, &c.

The city of Cape Town is situated upon Table bay, about twenty miles to the westward of the Cape of Good Hope. It is the capital of the Colony, and is well situated. Besides, it has the Botanical Gardens, various promenades, &c.

The city of itself is of about 30,000 inhabitants, but the various suburban villages swell it to about 50,000. The main streets run east and west, and are very well paved and in perfect order. The bay fronts the city, while in the rear the table mountains rise as a barrier to egress in that direction, and in plain view is another peak called the "Lion's Head." The inhabitants, like those of California, are very much of the same type, and the Malays here are like the Chinese to the City of the Golden Gate. Dutch is the prevailing tongue here, yet everybody talks some English.

The war with the Kaffirs is a prevalent topic of conversation, and your townsman has an idea of joining the volunteers.

Truly yours, PERCY LABRETS.

[Our correspondent is P. L. Carrington, Esq.]

Letter from Tazewell.

ATTEMPTED ELOPEMENT—A BUNGLING AFFAIR—BIG SENSATION—A DETERMINED BUT DISAPPOINTED LOVER.

TAZEWELL COURTHOUSE, VA.,

January 6, 1878.

This morning (Sunday) our town was thrown into a state of wild excitement by an event as novel as it was sensational—novel because of the unusual hour at which it was enacted, and sensational on account of the daring boldness of the swain who thus sought to quell the consuming passion that Cupid had kindled in his susceptible bosom.

The parties to this affaire d'amour are Mr. Henry White, of Russell, and Miss Liza Steele, of this county, a beautiful young pupil in the Tazewell High School. Miss Steele spent the Christmas at her home, and on Sunday morning about 2 o'clock Mr. White arrived here, leading a horse equipped with a side-saddle, and put up at Dodd's Hotel.

Some time during the morning a negro was bribed to convey a satchel containing the young lady's trousseau (7) from the school to the hotel. Circumstances indicate that it was the intention of the latter to surreptitiously disappear from the church (which it was customary with her to regularly attend) or go home with one of the day-scholars, and thus gain the opportunity to escape with her lover. Fate, however, was otherwise propitious. Principal Evans had by some means discovered the plot. He recovered the satchel from the hotel, and was ready at the church to conduct his fair pupil home. But when the congregation was dismissed, and the school building was left empty, the Professor was on hand to charge her with being contaminated by the intrepid lover, who insisted upon then and there, in broad daylight, bearing off the coveted prize. The Professor was equally determined on retaining possession of her, and during the time she was being taken to the school, the matter was being talked over by the matron and a warrant issued for Mr. White's arrest, which, however, was not used, as the matter was otherwise arranged, for the time being, at least.

At the present writing the young lady is under close surveillance, and a message has been dispatched for her father, while the disappointed lover, rumor says, is planning to carry her off under cover of darkness.

I have mentioned above that the young lady exhibited the utmost fortitude throughout the trying ordeal, and clung tenaciously to her father, while he would allow no one to lay hands upon her. As he entered the house with the object of his affection clinging to his arm he was heard to say: "I'll be d—d if I don't have her or die!"

The young man is evidently a novice in such matters, and, while he was accorded credit for his boldness, he was unanimously derided for the bungling manner in which he conducted the affair.

Further developments, should any occur, will be duly forwarded.

AUCTION SALES—This Day.

By Jno. E. Langdon, Jr., (Agent) Auctioneer, No. 1823 Franklin street.

TRUSTEES' AND COMMISSIONERS' SALE OF CARRIAGES, HORSES, HARNESS, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c. Under the provisions of a deed of trust executed to us, the undersigned, and at the request of the trustees named in said deed, duly recorded in the clerk's office of the Richmond Chancery Court, we will, on THURSDAY, January 24th, 1878, at 10 o'clock, sell at public auction, at No. 1335 Franklin street, between Thirteenth and Fourteenth streets, the following property to wit: 1. HARNESS (nearly new); 2. DOUBLE SLEIGH; 3. HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c. A desirable amount of HOUSEHOLD and KITCHEN FURNITURE may be required to pay the expenses of executing this trust and discharge the amount upon the note secured in the deed here described (say \$470), and as to the remainder, upon such terms as may be made known at the time and place of sale.

R. H. GARNETT, Jr., R. H. DUESBERY, Trustees.

POSTPONEMENT.

The above sale having been unavoidably postponed, it will be held on SATURDAY, the 19th instant, at 11 o'clock.

R. H. GARNETT, Jr., R. H. DUESBERY, Trustees.

EVERY-DAY ABSURDITIES.

"To make yourself generally disagreeable, and then wonder why nobody will visit you. To sit shivering in the cold because you won't have a fire till November. Not to go to bed when you are tired and sleepy because it is not bed-time. To make your servants tell lies for you, and afterwards be angry because they tell lies for themselves. To keep your own secrets and tell other people they will keep them."—*Exchange.*

The ladies are all opposed to the telephone. They don't care to have a young fellow whispering in their ears with his month twenty miles away.—*Funny Folks.*

There exists a popular superstition that hotel-waiters must be well fed before they can be induced to feed well.—*Picayune.*

Should you coquette, what would you do with it? Let it dye, of course.—*Bulletin.*

WANTS.

WANTED, BY A WHITE WOMAN, a SITUATION in the country. Can do general housework. Call at the corner of Sixth and Marshall streets. ja 19-18

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